

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

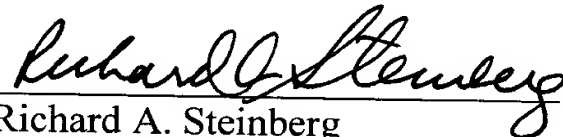
Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-18 and 21-27 will be pending.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that pending claims 1-18 and 21-27 are allowable. As requested, claims 19-20 have been cancelled herein, and Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: 
Richard A. Steinberg
Registration No. 26,588
Direct No. (703) 905-2039

Paul L. Sharer
Registration No. 36,004
Direct No. (703) 905-2180

PLS/RAS
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22101
(703) 905-2000 Telephone
(703) 905-2500 Facsimile

Date: September 29, 2003